

# 3

Export Certification  
Manual

# Sources for Import Requirements

## Overview

---

### Contents

Introduction **page 3-1-1**

---

### Introduction

The information presented in the *Sources for Import Requirements* chapter covers the principal sources of information Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) use to determine a country's phytosanitary import requirements.

The principal source of information is the database EXCERPT. The EXCERPT database contains the import requirements for over 150 countries. **Sources for Import Requirements: *EXCERPT*** on **page 3-2-1** discusses the type of information available and how to use the EXCERPT database.

Official communication from a country's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) is the second source that may provide the phytosanitary import requirements for a country. **Sources for Import Requirements: *Official Communication*** on **page 3-3-1** discusses what is considered "official communication" and how ACOs should use it to certify a commodity.

Official communication may be any of the following:

- ◆ A country's regulations
- ◆ Letters of correspondence
- ◆ Bilateral agreements
- ◆ Import permits
- ◆ Letters of authorization

When an exporter presents import requirements that differ from those in an export summary the information must be in the form of official communication from the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the importing country. Official communication, generally, must be a document; emails are not acceptable unless cleared by Export Services. These official documents may be import permits, special authorizations, or recent correspondence that was issued by an NPPO. Official communication from the NPPO takes precedence over the information contained in an export summary. Import requirements provided in official documents that differ from an export summary should be brought to the attention of Export Services through proper channels.

Keep in mind that exporters frequently present contract stipulations (from their contacts in the foreign country) to indicate that plant quarantine regulations have been changed. Information from exporters' contracts **cannot** be considered official because changes or exceptions to plant quarantine regulations **must** come from the NPPO of the foreign country.

However, a few countries use commercial contracts to outline the import requirements for a particular shipment. Exceptions such as the acceptable use of commercial contracts are listed in the respective export summary.



A letter of credit is a financial document. It is **not** official communication from an NPPO.